

River Schoolhouse (Stone Schoolhouse)  
North side of River Rd. (LR45012),  
2.8 miles northeast of Shawnee on  
Delaware  
Shawnee on Delaware vicinity,  
Smithfield Township  
Monroe County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1167

HABS

PA

45-SHAWNEE

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

*Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings*

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

HABS  
PA,  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-1167

RIVER SCHOOLHOUSE  
(Stone Schoolhouse)

Location:

North side of River Rd. (LR45D12), .6 miles southwest of township line, 2.8 miles northeast of Shawnee on Delaware, in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Smithfield township, Monroe County, Pa.

USGS Bushkill Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.49483D.4541560.

Present Owner:

United States Government.

Present Use:

Demolished after 1970.

Significance:

This is one of four similar late nineteenth century school-houses built in Smithfield Township. Constructed of stone, the one-room school house contains an interesting roof framing system, composed of a combination of wood and iron-truss members.

PART 1. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1888.

2. Original and subsequent owners: This is an incomplete chain of title found in the records at the Monroe County Court House, Stroudsburg, Pa.

1888 Deed: 14 Sept. 1888 Recorded 14 Sept. 1888  
Deed Book Vol. 38, p. 453  
George A. Michael and Margaret (his wife) to Smithfield School District. For \$75.00; 1/2 acre of a larger lot.

1927 Deed: 16 April 1927 Recorded 16 April 1927  
Deed Book Vol. 100, p. 656  
School District of Smithfield Township to LeRoy Mikels for \$800.000

1928 Deed: 9 Jan. 1928 Recorded 9 Jan. 1928  
Deed Book Vol. 103, p. 311  
LeRoy Mikels and Emma (his wife) to Homer N. Carlton and Verlo H. (his wife) for \$1.00

1946 Deed: 14 Jan. 1946 Recorded 14 Jan. 1946  
Deed Book Vol. 152 p. 446  
Verlo H. Carlton to Ludwig Hofstetter and Theresa (his wife) for \$1.00

3. Original plan and construction: The building appears to have had a narrow entrance vestibule running all the way across the southwest end. Three other similar stone schools were erected in Smithfield Township about the same time; the Eilenberger School, on the Hollow Road, north of Shawnee on Delaware (still standing and privately owned-1968); the Mt. Nebo (or Scantling Hill School) on the Mt. Nebo above Shawnee; and the Shawnee School (demolished several years ago) which stood directly at the rear left of the Parish Hall of Shawnee Presbyterian Church.
4. Alterations and additions: The original one-room schoolhouse is presently subdivided into a four-room house. This work would have been done after the 1927 sale. In addition, a porch running the full length of the buildings was added. The center window on the porch side was made into a front entrance door.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The land for the school was purchased in 1888 from George A. and Margaret Michael of the Valentine Weaver Farm (see HABS PA-1164). This new school supplanted the earlier frame school known as the Walter School, which stood north of the Michael home.

The site was chosen by two "viewers", Simon Barry and Frank Smith. The one-half-acre lot provided ample space for recreation and was located close to the road for easy accessibility.

Among the teachers were:

1888-91 - Miss May Smith (sister of Edward)  
1891-94 - Irvin L. Allegar  
1894-96 - William Kinney  
1896-98 - Irvin L. Allegar  
1898-1900 - Frank B. Michaels (now 1968 Chairman of the Board of Monroe Security Bank and Trust Company, Stroudsburg, Pa.)  
1900-1901 - Miss Mary Kober (Mrs. Victor H. Dimmick)  
Teachers after 1901 (order not certain and list incomplete)  
Miss Bennett  
Miss Marietta Michael (Mrs. Horatio Hauser)  
Miss Lenora Michael  
Harry Kautz  
Miss Fern Nye (Mrs. Ernest Ryder)  
Miss Edna Kaul  
Russell Walters  
Miss Grace Depue  
Frank Bisbing  
Miss Mary Mills (1918)

The school closed late in the first quarter of the twentieth century when the school board consolidated the area schools. Sometime after 1927 when the school fell into private hands and it was converted into a residence.

C. Sources of information:

1. Old views: photocopy of photograph taken in 1900-1901 in front of school. Pupils in the photograph are not in order: Leila Treible, Harry Kautz, Arthur Strunk, Florence Treible, Lucinda Dimmick, Theodore Treible, George Michaels, Williard Treible, Austin Kautz, Mae Treible, Bertha Kautz. Teacher, Miss Mary Kober.

2. Bibliography:

- a. Primary and unpublished sources:

East Stroudsburg Area School Board Report concerning closing of one room schools in Smithfield Township, Monroe County, Pa., and Office of the Supt. of Schools of Monroe County, Court House, Stroudsburg, Pa.

Dimmick, Victor H., East Stroudsburg interview 1968.

Kober Sr., Frank B., East Stroudsburg, R.D. #1, interview 1968.

Michaels, Frank B., Stroudsburg, interview 1968.

Walters, Mrs. Martin V.B., East Stroudsburg, interview circa 1940.

Records at the Monroe County Court House, Stroudsburg, Pa, including wills and deeds.

- b. Secondary and published sources:

Hoffman, S. Luther, Early History Smithfield Township, Monroe County, Pa. Printed by the Artcraft Press, East Stroudsburg, Pa. 1938 p. 47.

2. Norman M. Souder, architect "Historic Structures Report, Part I, Architectural Data Section on Historic Buildings, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area," July 1967, Bldg. No. 9 - Stone School House. River Road, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, page 12.

Prepared by Elizabeth D. Walters  
Historian  
Delaware Water Gap  
National Recreation Area  
October, 1968  
and  
Wesley Shank  
Project Supervisor  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
August, 1970.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Although still a stone building, the windows are much larger than was formerly common and the building assumes a scale larger than the traditional house construction. It is interesting to note that the same trend for lighter rooms is common in houses built in the same period.
2. Condition of fabric: Good, although wall board partitions were put in when it was converted for use as a residence. A long porch was also added along the southeast side of the school.

B. Description of the exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The house measures 36' (three bay front) x 26' (two bays) excluding a 10' deep porch that runs the length of the building. The ridge, running parallel to the southeast (front) elevation, measures 23'-6" from the first floor level.
2. Foundation: Rubble limestone.
3. Wall construction: The load bearing rubble limestone walls are laid in tan mortar and contain large stone blocks at the corners.
4. Framing: The roof framing is composed of wood beams and rafters that span the width of the building. At three intermediate points in the attic, there are trusses made of rough wood cords with an iron vertical tie running from the beams to the ridge. The trusses seem to reinforce the roof rafters more than to support the ceiling below.

5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: The original front was located on the southwest elevation but is now used as a back entrance. It contains a concrete stoop one riser up from the ground and covered by a small wall-supported gable roof. The large porch along the southeast elevation shelters the main entrance. The roof is supported by four large columns, the foundation wall is composed of small stones and the porch floor is of concrete. The modern accessway to the basement is covered and made of concrete.

6. Chimneys: One tall concrete block chimney projects from the southwest side of the house.

7. Openings:

a. Doors and doorways: The original door is 6'-10" high and 2'-10" wide, made of diagonally placed beaded board 5 1/2" wide. The front doorway (modern) is 10'-1" high and contains a fifteen-light door and a six-light transom above. The door has replaced a former window in the center of the southeast side.

b. Windows and shutters: The large double-hung nine-over-nine-light sash windows measure 2'-10" in width and 7'-7/2" in height. There are eight in all, two on the front elevation, three on the rear elevation, two windows flanking the back entrance and one on the northeast side. The windows are flanked by beaded board shutters painted blue.

Louvered vents are located in each of the end gables.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The simple pitch slate-covered gable roof has the ridge parallel with the front.

b. Cornice, eaves: The eaves are bracketed and decorated with a simple molding. There is another molding where the eaves intersect the stone wall.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

a. First floor: Original one-room is now divided into five rooms via modern wallboard partitions. Originally, there was one major space with a partition across the area approximately 4'-5" from the south west wall, forming a long entry vestibule. Some of this partition has been incorporated into the modern partitions.

- b. Attic: The attic is a triangular space with exposed rafters and beams.
  - c. Basement: A 5'-10" excavation has been made in the south corner of the building for plumbing and a furnace. The original crawl space was approx. 1'-3" high.
- 2. Stairways: There is a modern fold-down access stair to the attic, located over the original front door.
  - 3. Flooring: According to the last owner, the original floors were replaced. The floor boards are now 3" wide running parallel to the front elevation. The attic has a loose board floor.
  - 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are plastered and papered above the baseboards. The ceiling height is 11'-0" throughout.
  - 5. Doors and doorways: All interior doors are 6'-6" high and are single panel, solid doors.
  - 6. Decorative features and trim: The interior trim is quite simple; the door trim is simple, the base molding contains a quarter-round mold on the top and the ceiling has a small molding where it meets the walls.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting and orientation: The present dwelling house faces southeast and is located on sloping land north of River Road. The surrounding property is wooded.
- 2. Outbuildings: A modern garage is located directly to the west of the building. A playhouse is located beyond the garage. A privy is located uphill to the north of the house.
- 3. Walks: There is a concrete and stone walk to the southwest, leading to the original front door.

Prepared by Kenneth N. Clark  
Project Supervisor  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
August, 1968.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, supervised by the National Park Service and Funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project, which extended from 1967 to 1971, was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS. This structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1968 under the direction of Kenneth N. Clark (University of Arizona), Project Supervisor, by student assistant architects Andrei T. Banks (Howard University), Gary W. Kreger (University of Virginia), and John R. Naughton (University of Illinois) in the HABS field office at Bangor, Pennsylvania in the project area of the Tocks Island Reservoir and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The historical data was written by Elizabeth D. Walters, historian with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in 1968 and project historians, Wesley Shank and William C. Badger in 1970. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Kent R. Newell of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by George Eisenman in 1968.